

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 /033 W

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R 301128Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6083

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI E)

SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENSON

REF: STATE 20495

1. WE LOOK FORWARD TO VISIT OF SENATOR ADLAI E. STEVENSON (D-ILL) AND FSO-RET. WILLIAM A. BUELL TO DAMASCUS SUNDAY, FEB 15 TO TUESDAY, FEB 17. CONTROL OFFICER IS ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL OFFICER REDERICK M. WRIGHT.

2. TRAVEL: TENTATIVE ITINERARY AND FLIGHTS SUBJECT TO NEW AIRLINE SCHEDULES TO BE ISSUED FEB 1. ETA RB 384 FROM JIDDA AT 0945 FEB 15 OK ON CURRENT SCHEDULE; CHANGE ETD MS726 FROM DAMASCUS TO 1640 VICE 1710 FEB 17 AND ETA BAGHDAD 1855 VICE 1925. WE WILL CABLE ANY FURTHER CHANGES.

3. TICKETING: RECALLING CODEL MCCLURE'S PROBLEMS IN BAGHDAD WITH TICKETS HOTING "BILL TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV" (75 BAGHDAD 1238 AND 75 DAMASCUS 4872), RECOMMEND H CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CATO ON TICKET ISSUANCE.

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4. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS:

A. WE ARE SUBMITTING EMBASSY NOTE REQUESTING APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD; DEPT SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT IN SENATOR'S MIND THAT WHILE WE WILL DO OUR BEST, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY WE CAN GUARANTEE APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT AND WE USUALLY DO NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION UNTIL LAST MINUTE PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT (AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY CONCERNING VISITS OF CODELS OBEY AND MCCLURE).

B. WE ALSO NEED DEPARTMENT'S BEST GUIDANCE ON PRIORITY LISTING OF SENATOR'S INTERESTS (RECALLING CODEL OBEY'S REPORTED INTEREST IN ECONOMIC AREA, BUT OVERRIDING REAL INTEREST IN POLITICAL SUBJECTS EXPRESSED UPON ARRIVAL). BEARING IN MIND SENATOR'S REQUEST TO LEAVE AFTERNOON OF FEB 16 USG HOLIDAY OPEN (PARA 4, REFTEL) WE SUGGEST:

- (1) BRIEFING SESSION ON SUBJECTS OF INTEREST CITED IN PARA 2 REFTEL (AMBASSADOR, DCM, DATT, AND E/C OFFICER);
- (2) CALL ON PRESIDENT ASAD IF AND WHEN THIS CAN BE ARRANGED, AS NOTED ABOVE;
- (3) CALL ON DR. ADNAN MUSTAFA, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES (OIL PRODUCTION, SYRIAN DESIRE FOR US EXPLORATION COMPANIES TO WORK IN SYRIA; PRICING AND SALES IS NOT RESPONSIBILITY OF MINPET AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO WORK IN PRICING CZAR AT SMALL WORKING FUNCTION);
- (4) CALL ON DR. MOHAMMAD AL-IMADI, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE (SARG BOYCOTT OFFICE IS IN HIS MINISTRY AS OPPOSED TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE OF ARAB LEAGUE WHICH HEADQUARTERED ELSEWHERE IN DAMASCUS); ALSO RE INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; IMADI IS 1976 CHAIRMAN OF IBRD GOVERNORS;
- (5) COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MOHAMMAD HAYDAR;
- (6) SYRIANS MAY WISH SHORT COURTESY CALL ON SPEAKER OF PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (PARLIAMENT) MOHAMMAD HALABY;
- (7) WE WILL EMPHASIZE WORKING NATURE OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, INVITING SYRIANS FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS THAT ARE CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF SENATOR NOTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL. ONLY SARG INTEREST WE AWARE OF EXPRESSED IN NUCLEAR AREA IS ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION IN DISTANT FUTURE;
- (8) THREE-HOUR ROUND-TRIP TO SYRIAN GOLAN HEIGHTS PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, QUNEITRA, CAN BE WORKED INTO SCHEDULE. WE BELIEVE TRIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USEFUL FOR GEOGRAPHIC AND POLITICAL FAMILIARIZATION WITH KEY TERRITORIAL QUESTION BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. DOES CODEL WISH TO INCLUDE THIS ON SCHEDULE?
CULTURAL FAMILIARIZATION WILL ALSO BE WORKED IN.

5. PLEASE SEND SOONEST NAMES OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS SENATOR WISHES TO SEE IN DAMASCUS (PARA 3 REFTEL) AND PASSPORT INFO.

6. AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY INVITES SENATOR AND MR. BUELL TO
STAY AT RESIDENCE, CONSIDERING MORE TIME FOR
BRIEFING/EXCHANGES,
BETTER COMMUNICATIONS (ESPECIALLY NEEDED FOR ASAD APPOINTMENT)
AND CROWDED HOTEL SITUATION. PLEASE ADVISE.

7. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION. UPON RECEIPT
OF DEPT'S REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE, WE WILL SEND SCHEDULING
ARRANGEMENTS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH SARG. ALSO DEPT PLEASE
PROVIDE CODEL'S GUIDANCE ON PRESS OPPORTUNITIES, E.G., AIRPORT
STATEMENT, INTERVIEWS, ETC.
MURPHY

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